

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 10 through 12. Claim 11 is canceled by way of the above amendment. Independent claim 10 has been amended to clarify a term and incorporate the structural limitation found in canceled claim 11 relating to the structure of the pin face. Claims 10 and 12 are pending.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 10 through 12 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Zeiger et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,269,671. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

The Examiner argues that the claimed feature are taught by Ziegler et al. In order for a claim to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single prior art reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Structural Rubber Prods. Co. v. Park Rubber Co., 749 F.2d 707, 715, 223 U.S.P.Q. 1264, 1270 (Fed. Cir. 1984). If the reference fails to suggest even one limitation of the claimed invention, the claim is not anticipated. Atlas Powder Co. v. E.I. du Pont De Nemours & Co., 750 F.2d 1569, 1574, 224 U.S.P.Q. 409,411 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

The Examiner has failed to present a single prior art reference that anticipates Applicant's claimed invention. Specifically, claims 10 and 12 require the presence of the pin face having a slightly concave surface and edge perimeter. As can be found on page 4 of the specification, for example, the pin face structure participates in the controlled stretching phenomenon associated with Applicant's invention. The Examiner alleges that Zeiger et al. teach this feature citing column 8, lines 24-26 of the reference. In fact, the reference contains no such teaching as cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, none of the pending claims are anticipated by Zeiger et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,269,671, as this reference does not teach each

and every claim element within..

Claims 10 and 12 are not anticipated by Zeiger et al. within the proper meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102. This rejection should, therefore, be withdrawn.

Claims 10 through 12 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Zeiger et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,879,612. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

The Examiner argues that the claimed features are found within Zeiger et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,879,612. In order for a claim to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single prior art reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Structural Rubber Prods. Co. v. Park Rubber Co., 749 F.2d 707, 715, 223 U.S.P.Q. 1264, 1270 (Fed. Cir. 1984). If the reference fails to suggest even one limitation of the claimed invention, the claim is not anticipated. Atlas Powder Co. v. E.I. du Pont De Nemours & Co., 750 F.2d 1569, 1574, 224 U.S.P.Q. 409,411 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

The Examiner has failed to present a single prior art reference that anticipates Applicant's claimed invention. Specifically, claims 10 and 12 require the presence of the pin face having a slightly concave surface and edge perimeter. As can be found on page 4 of the specification, for example, the pin face structure participates in the controlled stretching phenomenon associated with Applicant's invention. Accordingly, none of the pending claims are anticipated by Zeiger et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,269,671, as this reference does not teach each and every claim element within.

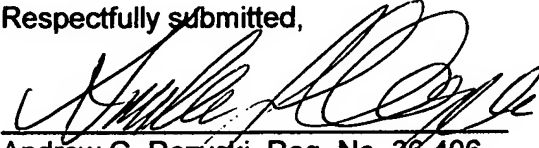
Claims 10 and 12 are not anticipated by Zeiger et al. within the proper meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102. This rejection should, therefore, be withdrawn.

Conclusion:

In light of the above amendments and the accompanying remarks, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and prompt notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss the application on the merits if it is believed that such discussion would expedite the prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,



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